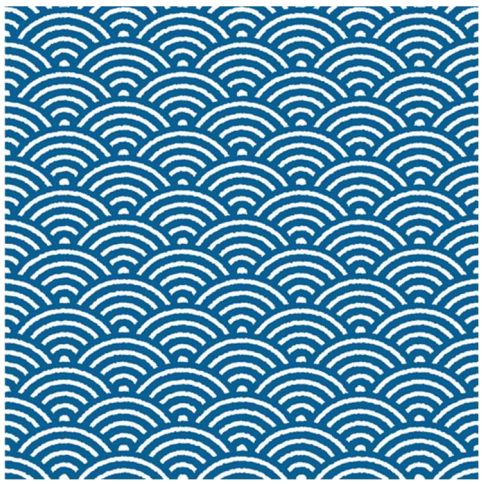
Series | Kimono Patterns as Symbols of Japanese Culture　Seigaiha (青海波)



The Japanese kimono used in **HeWhoMe.Tokyo**, presented at Maison & Objet, feature a wide variety of traditional patterns—auspicious motifs, plants, animals, and more.
Each pattern has its own special meaning and history.
Well-known examples include pine, bamboo and plum (Shochikubai), cherry blossoms, phoenix, ox carts, and hemp leaf patterns.
This time, we introduce one of the most popular patterns: **Seigaiha**, meaning *blue ocean waves*.
We invite you to enjoy the delicate beauty of Japanese culture through this design.

The Origin and Meaning of the Seigaiha Pattern

A pattern that carries wishes on gentle waves

Seigaiha is a traditional Japanese pattern made up of repeating semicircles that resemble spreading waves across the sea.
It expresses the wish that *a calm and peaceful life will continue forever*.
Like flowing water, daily life is full of change, yet it continues without end.
Seigaiha gently symbolizes the Japanese belief that happiness exists within this steady rhythm of life.

History and Origins – From Court Dance to Pattern

The roots of the Seigaiha pattern date back to the Heian period.
Its name comes from a court dance called Seigaiha, performed at the imperial court.
The costumes worn in this dance featured wave-like patterns.
The dance itself is believed to have incorporated rhythms from Persia and Central Asia.
Over time, the pattern spread from costumes to kimono and crafts, blending with Japanese aesthetics and becoming firmly established in Japanese culture.
That a motif from distant lands came to be loved as a symbol of good fortune reflects the Japanese sensibility of embracing and reinterpreting external influences.

Use in Kimono and Seasonal Significance

Seigaiha is often used in formal kimono such as visiting kimono, formal black kimono, and long-

sleeved kimono.
It gives an elegant and calm impression.
The endlessly repeating waves symbolize *eternity* and *prosperity*, which is why the pattern is frequently seen in wedding attire and other celebratory occasions.



Design Appeal and Modern Interpretations

The beauty of Seigaiha lies in its simple repetition and deep visual harmony.Its clean structure works well with modern design sensibilities.Today, the pattern is used not only in kimono, but also in fashion, interiors, stationery, and packaging.
Known overseas as the **"Japanese Wave Pattern,"** it is highly regarded as a symbolic design representing Japanese aesthetics.

The Meaning Behind Seigaiha

Seigaiha is more than just a beautiful pattern—it carries prayers and wishes.The spreading waves express the hope that *peace and happiness will continue endlessly*, gently embracing those who see it.To understand Seigaiha is to touch upon the Japanese view of nature, values, and the deep respect for auspicious symbols.

Seigaiha and HeWhoMe.Tokyo

For **HeWhoMe.Tokyo**, which embodies the fusion of tradition and innovation, Seigaiha is an ideal motif.
With each step, we wish for calmness and a future that opens outward like gentle waves.
We chose the Seigaiha pattern with the hope that the wearer's life will move forward peacefully and richly, just like the flowing sea.

Meaning and Conclusion

We hope you feel how each kimono used by **HeWhoMe.Tokyo** is carefully chosen with intention, and how every pattern holds deep and fascinating meaning.Kimono patterns are, without question, one of the profound expressions of Japanese culture—so deep that words sometimes fall short.Please feel free to contact us not only about **HeWhoMe.Tokyo**, but also about Japanese culture itself.

📩 info@axt-japan.com

We promise you a wonderful **HeWhoMe.Tokyo LIFE**.